Ed White Tire

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# SELECTMEN

AND

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

# Town of Montagne.

1875-6.

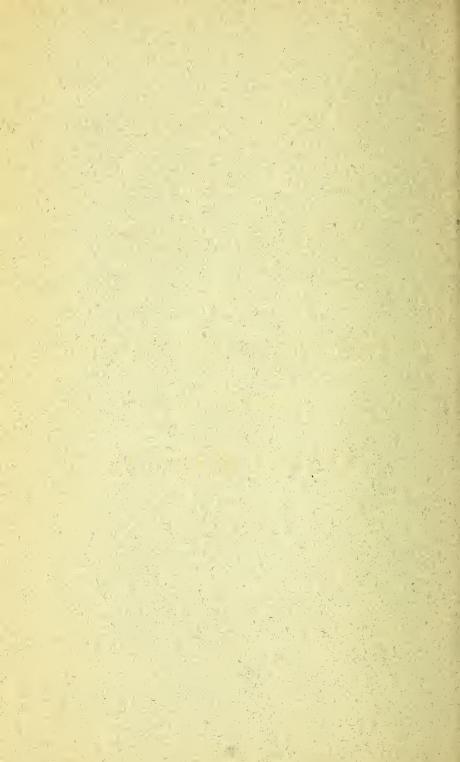
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MONTAGUE:

1875-76

FICE OF THE TURNERS FALLS REPORTER.

1876.



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# TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

### J. H. Root, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Montague.

To Cash on hand, Feb. 16, 1875, ... 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

" rent of Lecture Room,	825 00
	30 00
" " " Town House,	44 00
" of C. Scott for Davis boy,	28 20
" State for Corporation taxes,	348 30
" State aid,	617 00
" Paupers,	146 19
" Bank taxes,	848 97
" " School fund,	266 70
" County from Dog fund,	149 57
" for interest on taxes,	285 91
" borrowed of Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,	100 00
	37,753 95
\$	43,198 99
CR.	
By paid State tax, \$1760 00	
" County tax, 2406 25	
" Bank tax, 3108 86	
" State aid, 680 00	
" Licenses, 206 25	
Literises, 200 25	
lighway orders,	
"Building Committee orders, 245 00	
2	
" Pauper orders, 2949 68	
" Pauper orders,       2949 68         " Selectmen's orders,       17245 47	
" Pauper orders,       2949 68         " Selectmen's orders,       17245 47         Cash and balance due on taxes of 1874 and 1875,       1560 22	43,198 99

J. H. ROOT, TREASURER.

DR.

\$1755 20

# SCHOOLING.

## COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

Paid for	Wages of Teachers,	\$4973	32
"	Fuel,	483	84
66	Care of School Houses,	240	59
44	Transportation and Tuition,	156	96
"	School Books,	218	33
66	Repairs,	383	17
4.6	Old Bills,	72	79
	Total School expenses,	\$6529	00
Ren	naining in treasury,	37	70
	•	-117	12.
		\$6566	70
Town as	opropriation, \$6300 00		
-	from State, 266 70		
		\$6566	70

FRED HUBBARD, SEYMOUR ROCKWELL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE. E. A. WYMAN,

### HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

#### ROAD COMMISSIONERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid fo	or repairing Millers River bridge,	\$1327	60
66	building new road at Millers Falls,	<b>22</b> 3	36
66	Repairs of Highways,	2275	52
66	Plank and Railing,	652	27
64	Grading K street, Turners Falls,	600	00
4.6	" A Avenue "	650	00
"	" Canal street "	500	00
"	" 7th street "	250	00
44	1 scraper,	7	00
66	Rice's Ferry,	7	51
44	Lighting Millers Falls bridge,	15	00

Total Commissioners' orders, \$6508 26 Remaining in Treasury, 91 74

\$6000 00

Town appropriations for highways, " 600 00 K street.

--- \$6600 00

\$6600 00

THAXTER SHAW, EDWARD BAKER, GEO. F. ADAMS,

ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

# TURNERS FALLS SCHOOL HOUSE.

### BUILDING COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT.

Paid for Hot Air Pipes Screens, Dripping Stones, etc., \$100 00 " on Account of Blinds, 145 00

> Total expenditure, \$245 00 Remaining in Treasury at last Report, \$245 00

> > R. N. OAKMAN, GEO. O. PEABODY, ALPHEUS MOORE, BUILDING COMMITTEE.

## PAUPERS.

## OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid for H B, Gunn,

\$154 84

I alu lu	H D. Gunn,	ATOT	O-X		
66	Loveland Children,	62	25		
66	Gour Family,	81	00		
44	Tirza Merchants,	50	00		
66	J. W. Ellis,	139	08		
4.6	Chloe Furrow and Husband,	125	91		
66	Wife and Children of Michael McGuire,	130	05		
66	Patrick Grace and Family,	144	59		
6.6	Wife and Children of Joel B. Marsh,	303	87		
44	Mrs. Knights and Family,	32	41		
"	Mrs. Burnham and Family,	42	46		
"	Mrs. Terry and Brother,	32	89		
"	Mrs. McCarthy and Family,	24	86		
66	Mrs. Carson,	12	00		
4.6	Davis and Lawson Boys,	23	42		
44	E. H. Britt and Family,	40	63		
46	Oliver Morris,	13	22		
66	Hurter Family,	15	00		
" .	418 Tramps out of Almshouse,	160	84		
64	Medical Attendance and Medicine,	, 278	65		
44	Funeral Expenses,	101	60		
44	All Others,	45	14		
Paid on	Town Farm Account,	984	97		
	Total for Support of Poor,		_	\$2949	68
Town A	ppropriation,	<b>\$1500</b>	00		
	from State,	146			
	m State,	402	57		
	m Leverett and Northfield.		29		
Deficien	·	853			
	* /			\$2949	68

R. N. OAKMAN, EDWIN DEMOND, OVERSEERS OF POOR. J. F. BARTLETT,

# TOWN FARM.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S ACCOUNT.

\$200 00

28 38

Received for Beef,

" Oats.

	Oats,		20	00
66	Straw,		36	05
44	Pasturing,		18	20
44	Board,		25	27
+6	Stabling Horses,		10	25
66	Pigs,		21	25
66	Walnuts,		1	75
44	Garden Vegetables,		18	59
44	Milk,		14	00
4.6	Eggs,		1	20
Received	from Town of Westfield,		72	00
4.	Town Treasury,		984	97
			\$1431	91
Paid for	1 yoke of Oxen,	<b>\$155</b> 00		
66	1 Horse,	100 00		
4.	1 Cow,	45 00		
44	Labor,	143 46		
44	J. B. Cary,	247 53		
66	Supt. Salary,	50 00		
44	Blacksmith,	16 95		
46	Groceries and Provisions,	287 90		
66	Meat,	115 75		
4.	Meal.	82 05		
**	Clothing,	25 40		
4.6	Furniture,	80 60		
44	Farming Tools,	66 93		
4+	Repairs,	48 99		
46	Medicine and Medical Attendance.	16 35		
			\$1431	91

INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM PROPERTY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1876.

Real Estate,	\$4200 00
Live Stock—2 oxen, \$175	00
4 cows, 160	00
1 horse, 100	00
2 yearlings, 28	00
	00
5 swine, 55	00
55 hens, 15	00
	\$539 00
Produce and Provisions—14 tons hay, \$140	00
1 ton straw,	00
15 bushels corn, 10	00
30 " oats, 15	00
4 " rye, 4	00
4 "beans, 8	00
75 " potatoes, 35	00
30 "turnips, 8	00
40 gallons vinegar, 8	00
	\$238 00
Household Furniture,	375 00
Farming Tools,	247 00
Due on Farm Accounts,	28 61
Inventory, February 16, 1876,	\$5627 61
" " 1875,	5402 00
Gain,	\$225 61
Paid from Treasury, \$984	
Interest on Town Farm Debt, 350	
Taxes on Town Farm Property, 30	
Tuze on Town Turn Tropolog,	1364 97
Total cost of Almshouse,	\$1139 36

There has been furnished 304 weeks' board to immates, besides giving entertainment to 515 tramps, which makes the weekly cost of bearding, clothing and care of the immates about three and one fourth dollars per week.

EDWIN DEMOND, SUPERINTENDENT.

# SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

#### STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

State Tax, County Tax,	\$1760 00 2406 25
Town appropriation, Deficiency,	\$4166 25 \$4000 00 166 25 \$4166 25
BANK TAX,	\$2100 25
Tax paid to State Treasurer, Assessing and Collecting,	\$3108 86 31 24
Tax on non-resident Crocker Bank Stock,	\$3140 10 \$3140 10
STATE AID.	
Paid from March 1, 1875 to March 1, 1876, Remaining in Treasury,	\$680 00 47 00
Received from State, Due from January and February, 1875,	\$617 00 110 00 \$727,00 \$727 00
INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.	
Paid Thaxter Shaw,  "Mrs. E. V. Ward,  "Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,  "Elijah Bardwell,  "Apollos Burnham,  "E. L. Delano,  "J. H. Root,  "Franklin Savings Institution,  "Crocker Institution for Savings,  "Greenfield Savings Bank,	241 80 194 87 349 61 84 00 51 25 79 18 63 66 1423 50 737 50 162 75
Town appropriation, Deficiency,	\$3378 12 \$3000 00 378 12 \$3378 12

#### TOWN DEBTS.

Paid Thaxter Shaw, "Apollos Burnham, "Mrs. E. V. Ward,	1900 00 600 00 2325 00
" Greenfield Savings Bank, " Crocker Institution for Savings,	3000 00 3000 00
Town appropriation, Paid above appropriation,	\$9400 00 1425 00
	\$10825 00

#### CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

J. H. Root, Clerk and Treasurer,	\$100 00
R. N. Oakman, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	50 00
E. Demond, "	50 00
J. F. Bartlett, "	50 00
R. N. Oakman, Assessor,	50 00
E. Demond, "	50 00
J. F. Bartlett, "	50 00
Fred Hubbard, School Committee,	93 47
Seymour Rockwell, "	97 00
E. A. Wyman,	37 00
R. N. Oakman, Collector and Constable,	60 00
R. N. Oakman, making and collecting Bank Tax,	31 24
	\$718 71

### MISCELLANEOUS. .

Paid T	irners Falls Library from dog fund,	\$210 40
	. Chenery, Librarian, Centre,	50 00
	r Lockup at Turners Falls,	100 00
6.6	Furnishing and Repairing Lockup,	21 82
4.6	Highway damages, Kibbe Bros.,	125 00
*6	" Hartson's crossing,	10 00
6.	Legal advice,	10 00
6.6	Night Police at Turners Falls,	593 00
6.6	Lease of Lake Pleasant.	8 00
5.6	Tolling Bell, Drawing Hearse and Repairs,	74 25
66	Opposition to Turners Falls bridge,	144 57
6.6	" Sunderland bridge,	19 40
+ 6	Abatement of Taxes,	312 61
6.6	Recording Births, Deaths and Marriages,	84 70
5.6	Printing and Advertising,	99 50
44	Temporary interest,	302 50

Paid for Sundry Highway Bills of 1873,  Blank Express, Stationary and Postage,  Traveling expenses of Selectmen,	107 40 26 99 23 50	\$2323	64
Total contingent expenses, Remaining in Treasury,		\$3042 559	
Town Appropriations, Interest on Taxes, Corporation Tax, Bank Tax, Liquor Licenses net,	\$1500 00 285 91 348 30 848 97 618 75	\$3601 \$3601	
SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S ORD	ERS.		
Paid on Town Debt, " for interest on Town Debt, " Town Officers, " Miscellaneous expenses,		\$10825 3378 718 2323	12 71
	·	\$17245	47
LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.			
E. L. Delano, Elijah Bardwell, J. H. Root, Mrs. L. G. Bardwell. Franklin Savings Institution, Crocker Institution for Savings,	\$1075 00 1200 00 500 00 3000 00 21900 00 8000 00		
Total debt,	•	\$35675	00
ASSETS.			
Due for State aid, "State Paupers, "Leverett, "Northfield, Cash and Taxes Due,	\$790 00 402 57 26 94 20 30 1560 22		0.5
Net Town debt, March 1, 1876,		\$32874	93
" " " 1875,		43855	66

#### ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS, 1876.

State and County taxes,	\$6000 00
Schooling,	6000 00
Interest on Town debt,	2500 00
Support of poor,	2000 00
Building and repairing Highways,	5000 00
Incidental expenses,	1500 00
Town debt,	10000 00
· ·	
	\$33000 00

#### Respectfully submitted,

R. N. OAKMAN, EDWIN DEMOND, J. F. BARTLETT,

SELECTMEN
OF
MONTAGUE.

## SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FROM OCTOBER 1, 1874, TO FEBRUARY 1, 1876.

Number of volumes, -		1349			
Added during that time, -		213			
Number of families taking books,		82			
Money expended, -	-	-	\$273	73	
Received from members, -			77	91	
Received from members for th		4 month			
from Oct. 22, 1869, to Feb. 1			420	68	
For warming and ligh		room,			\$4 20
For Librarian's salary	,				45 80
					-
					\$50 00

A. CHENERY, LIBRARIAN.

# REPORT

OF THE

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MONTAGUE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1876.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague:

It is a generally conceded duty to point out and provide the means of grace, whether they are accepted or not.

It is a legitimate duty to offer an annual School Report, though very few for whom it is inscribed ever pay much attention to it. It verily seems pertinent that somebody should comment upon and review the schools at the close of the year, as a majority of the inhabitants usually avail themselves of few of the other means of becoming acquainted with them.

To pervert a school report to the purpose of constructing "glittering generalities" might be the means of furnishing a gratuitous ornamental necklace to parade on public occasions, but, perhaps, not so practical or so becoming to the form and complexion of the subject as a crucifix or a a crown of thorns. The purpose of this report is to review the more important work of the Committee, to pay a deserved tribute to the teachers, to show what we think most ails the schools and to suggest some remedies.

First: What we have had to do, and how we have done it.

The first formiduble task that the committee encountered was to discover some means to extricate themselves from a book dilemma. There had been two partial changes in the readers within two years, neither

having been completed. Quite a spirited controversy had grown out of it—a domestic feud—a contest between a majority of the then present board.

After much futile deliberation the Committee determined to make the introduction permanent and complete, so made it in accordance with the provision of the statute, incurring a considerable bill.

As the schools had been the previous year in charge of a superintendent it became necessary to adjust them again to a School Board. This involved some time: besides, the Committee has spent more time than has been the custom in years past, visiting the schools, believing that a thorough acquaintance with them is indispensable to forming an intelligent judgment or expressing a reliable opinion of them.

#### HIRING TEACHERS.

Every Committee must face the delicate duty of refusing to engage some applicants, and of re-engaging some incumbents, and transferring teachers, and suffer the unpleasant consequences. We have no idea that we are miraculous exempts.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

A provision for transporting school children was voted at the last annual Town Meeting.

A great deal has been said, and very pertinently, concerning the great amount of taxes paid by Turners Falls capital. We believe Turners Falls should be favored with school advantages commensurate with their taxation—the very best the town affords. Pursuant to this, the Committee offered passes over the railroads, to such as desired and were qualified, to attend the High School in the Centre.

The response, though quite limited, added something to the number and character of the High School, as well as providing advantages to them superior to what Turners Falls schools could furnish in their present crude and mixed condition.

It seemed due to those families in the old North-West District, which had got their children to school, upwards of two miles away, free of any public expense in the Summer or Fall terms, that they should have the advantages of the transporting provision in the Winter.

Some of the families in the South District live at an inconvenient distance from the Village. Yet some of those most remote elect the Village school to send their children, even if a farce of a school were attempted nearer to them, as in years past. We believe the families of Lowrey Clapp and Josiah Graves should receive some compensation for carrying their children to school.

Should the Town pay all who are accustomed (unwisely, we think,) to carry their children who live about a mile from school, it would necessitate increasing the appropriations or curtailing the schools.

The expense of the Lafayette District, in years past so disproportionate to the number of pupils, has been materially reduced, at the same time affording them better opportunities elsewhere.

We believe it to be economy to the town and conducive to the interest of the schools, to provide for transporting children.

#### THE HIGH SCHOOL AND OTHERS.

The High School, one of the most creditable institutions of the whole town, has been the subject of frequent criticism—the authorities have even been sometimes censured for having it at all.

Our conception of the purpose of a High School is to afford a conveyance over a higher plane than the ordinary district school—an institution with a more laudable aim than the fetich worship of the ancient trinity, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, which circumscribes the misty ambition of many narrow minds.

The greatest obstacle it has encountered has been insufficient patronage.

It were just as conducive to the life and character of a place to go out of town to trade, or for the light of the gospel and the means of salvation, as to go out of town for our higher English and our Classics.

It is not in the interest of the town to employ a second or third rate teacher in the High School because it comes less. We claim for our High School that it furnishes first class instruction in the higher Mathematics, more than ordinary facilities in the Natural Sciences, the purest Classics, and—Arithmetic.

#### OTHERS.

Space will not permit us to say all our impulses dictate of the Village Primary, where the reading was admirable and other features faultless, of the Primary schools at Turners Falls and the City, each of unqualified success, of the unwonted serenity of the West, Federal street and Dry Hill, of Chestnut Hill, where, whether as undisciplined and unsettled as primeval chaos, as rigid as martial rule, or as inexpressive as the immobile features of a corpse, neither condition generally proves an acceptable offering to the deities of that realm. Turners Falls is a very valuable accession. The schools there can be thoroughly graded. They are susceptible to advanced modern methods, and must eventually have the salutary effect upon the older schools, to shame them out of some old fashions unbecoming the present age.

#### A DISEASE IN THE SYSTEM.

We have suffered quite seriously from the ravages of an old chronic epidemic that has afflicted schools ever since the "Fall of Adam" in the school Materia Medica, technically styled Big Boy. Some of the leading symptoms of the disease are, an inherited morbid hankering for Arithmetic, an inability to "keep it down," a tendency to take excessive doses of slate and pencil, reacting in a bilious ciphering constipation, a nauseous loathing for any other dish on the school bill of fare, etc.

The first symptom is so exacting and capricious, that the teacher who fails to supply in infinite abundance, and to compound and administer all its perplexing and intricate arithmetical prescriptions, is branded with ignominy.

This disease, though not an abnormal irritant on the farm, in the workshop or at the wood pile, is yet as out of place in the school room as a "Bull in a china shop."

It runs about as long as the Septimus Scabies and requires as much scratching and annointing. One or two attacks of this loathsome relic of the dark ages has "broken up" the most hopeful "send off" and signally "distanced" the fairest "favorite."

It steals upon the school insidiously, is restless, inflammatory, effervescent, irrepressible, will break out in offensive irruptions though you apply astringents, sedatives, anæsthetics, brimstone or birch.

Let this imperious malady be pitted against the sensitive nature of a refined girl, and how unequal the match. Not one in ten of the teachers can treat the disease successfully; they have not attended that school of lectures.

If it must have an annual winter run upon the public, why not provide a special hospital for it. Providence has not seen fit to bless the present means of contending with it where it is.

The City Grammar School "had it bad" the past Winter. Millers Falls was severely afflicted. The libraries of Harvard had not furnished the teachers with a diagnosis of the disease nor indicated a temporary remedy.

It was present in the Village Grammar School, but by the indomitable will and superhuman nervous intensity of the teacher it was galvanized into submission; one or two amputations only, resorted to. In the Turners Falls Grammar, it was skillfully diverted from its tendencies by insisting upon a change in its diet.

The old South school house, a former pest house of the infection, has been undergoing a quiet fumigation the past year.

The High School is not susceptible to the contagion. The Big Boy that

gets into the High School is not and never was a disease. It always could bear, and had been fed upon something besides Arithmetical husks before it got there.

It has a natural taste and appetite for the provisions of the school larder, and thrives upon them.

Parents and guardians might with just as much propriety inflict the itch, the cholera or the small pox upon the scholars as this disease. If they would cure it up, physic out its depravity, inoculate it with the elements of good manners, tone it up with an ambition to render it an ornament and an acquisition instead of dismay to the teacher, a disgrace to themselves and a reproach upon the community, our winter schoolrooms need not be asylums for transforming monstrosities. But if the disease is found incurable at home, under continual paternal treatment, why ask a total stranger to the case, to doctor it?

And it is not the community, the school, the teacher alone, which suffers from the ravages of the disease, but the disease itself. The school room is a tropical climate when its worst symptoms are aggravated. The habit of time wasting, of inattention, of loss of self respect, the necessity of inventing futile means of relieving itself of the burden of time—time that is always a millstone about the neck of the unoccupied and unemployed, becoming proficient in unalloyed cussedness, the consciousness of ignominious failure, having scarcely got a taste of even his pet diet Arithmetic, oblivious, of all the other every day branches diffused in the common schools. What a show for ten successive Winters and half as many Summers of school going. A flattering commentary upon something or somebody! Either the defective sewerage of the home sinks that breed the infection, or the impotency of the physicians employed.

We dwell upon this unmitigated deformity, not that it has been unusually prevalent within the past year—thank Heaven, it has not! Yet could a few cases have been eliminated from some of our larger schools it would have insured them success. Whereas with it present to fret and irritate them, we have the pain of recording their partial failures.

Some parents (such as think Andrew Jackson is president) expect their children are still, as of old, subject to the barbarism of the stick and ferule. Not knowing that the universal panacea, used through dark ages, the infallible vegetable birch pill, supposed to open the pores and create an escape valve for the accumulated depravities and pernicious poisons, has been abolished by the united wisdom of the General Court and General Intelligence, and the school room dedicated and consecrated, a temple where to enlighten benighted ignorance, develop humanity and suppress the evil expression of animal propensities by intelligent human methods, not as of old, a gladiatorial arena in which to answer the prayer,

"And if ye pedagogue be small When to the battle led, In such a plight, God give him might To break ye rogue his heade."

#### CONCLUSION.

Imagination, visionary, prophetic, hopeful, fondly pictures in the dawning distance—in "Hope's own blue beautiful To-morrow"—a "better country." where is corrected the old rooted habit of stocking the back seats of the Winter school rooms with paradoxical creatures, innocent and dangerous-innocent under manual discipline but restless under mental direction and physical restraints—whose brains instinctively shrink from a contact with school books and whose intellects wane under the inexorable reign of animal spirits,—where some other proper orbit has been discovered that will permit them to shine—where the proverbially futile attempt to manufacture a "purse from a sow's ear," forcing learning into barren beads, has been judiciously abandoned-where, emulating the lesson of the Master, they generously give to "him that hath" and from him who sees the school room a place to hide his "one talent" is "taken away"—where any change in the system, the studies or the discipline is not distrustfully branded, luxury, innovation or some kindred epithet-where the ancient idol of rural localities, Arithmetic, has been dethroned, and assigned its earthly station among other material necessities—where the aim has been healthfully diverted from this worn and defaced old target, that so often baffles the skill and disheartens the "young idea," and the child who has no eye for such a mark, is provided with, and stimulated to, an aim that comes within the scope of his vision where the responsibility for inefficient schools and lamentable failures is magnanimously shared by parents and scholars, in place of unrelenting censure and reproof of teacher and committee-where prudence, toleration and tongues of good report are substituted for gossip and scandal.

"Oh, if there be an Elysium on earth,
It is this, it is this!"

These are some of the indistinct outlines of an ideal country, toward which we are tending (though shamefully slowly) pertinently styled the School Millenium. The force of enterprising intelligence that is bristling all around us will accelerate us toward it, even if compelled to beat up against adverse circumstances in the stagnant waters of general apathy, though we lie back on our oars never so indolently or indifferently.

Respectable, even ostentatious edifices will spring up on every hillside in defiance to stolid popular indifference, elaborate preparations, even ex-

travagant facilities for learning will obtrude themselves irresistably upon us and though we neither feel nor manifest any public interest in the cause, it will, with no advocate but blind Fate itself, extort from the most reluctant treasury the means of gratifying its insatiable demands.

#### " 'Tis coming yet for a' that."

"Thou art the man" is a bold and unsavory manner to serve any charge or reproof. It is a difficult matter to convince the Public that it is sleeping through the best part of the school day, a delicate duty to wake it up; it makes it peevish to disturb it—

#### "Sweet dreams of the past."

Our little segment of the public slept complacently for years in the dormant arms of the degenerate District System, until the clamor of restless civilization awoke it to find itself almost shelterless—awoke to dance to the dolorous pipe of a tune of fifty thousand dollars for school houses.

The moral is this: Sleep will only betray us with a delusive kiss, if it promises us salvation from inevitable natural retribution, and a release from a temporal Day of Judgment.

FRED HUBBARD, SEYMOUR ROCKWELL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE. E. A. WYMAN,



